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Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

Right of peoples to self-determination

Human rights questions

Letter dated 4 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of an announcement made by the Government of Pakistan with regard to a new initiative to reduce tension along the Line of Control and to promote a meaningful dialogue between Pakistan and India, with the participation of Kashmiris, for the peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. The main elements of this important initiative are briefly summarized below:

(a) With immediate effect, the armed forces of Pakistan deployed along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir will observe maximum restraint in order to strengthen and stabilize the ceasefire already being unilaterally implemented by Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan expects India will reciprocate and cease firing across the Line of Control. Stabilization of the ceasefire along the Line of Control will be facilitated by impartial monitoring. We hope the Government of India will abide by its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and allow the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan to fulfil its mandate of impartial monitoring of the ceasefire;

(b) Pakistan is prepared to enter into a meaningful dialogue with India to address the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, as well as other disputes, in conformity with Security Council resolutions, principles of justice, international law and the agreements between the two countries;

(c) In order to enable the representatives of the Kashmiri people to participate in the dialogue on Jammu and Kashmir, the Government of Pakistan has extended an invitation to the Executive Committee of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference for consultations to prepare the ground for a tripartite process of negotiations for a peaceful settlement of the dispute in accordance with the will of

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the people of the state. The Government of Pakistan expects that India will allow the leaders of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference to visit Pakistan for consultations during the month of Ramadan;

(d) To the same end, the Government of Pakistan has called upon the Government of India to invite the All Parties Hurriyat Conference leadership, during the current month of Ramadan, to prepare for the commencement of tripartite negotiations immediately after Ramadan.

India's announced suspension of military operations against the Kashmiri freedom fighters will be meaningful only if it is combined with a purposeful dialogue for the peaceful settlement of Jammu and Kashmir and an end to the repression and violence, with a reduction of Indian forces in occupied Kashmir, release of all detainees and respect for the fundamental rights of the Kashmiri people.

On its part, the Government of Pakistan reaffirms its commitment to respect and support the Kashmiris' inherent right to self-determination that has been pledged to them by Pakistan and India and enshrined in the resolutions of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if this letter, together with its enclosure, are circulated as an official document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Shamshad **Ahmad**

Annex to the letter dated 4 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan on the Government's initiative to reduce Indo-Pakistan tension and resume talks for the peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, with the participation of Kashmiris, Islamabad, 2 December 2000

With immediate effect, the Pakistan armed forces deployed along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir will observe maximum restraint in order to strengthen and stabilize the ceasefire.

The Government of Pakistan expects that the Government of India will reciprocate this initiative and cease firing across the Line of Control.

Stabilization of the ceasefire along the Line of Control will be facilitated by impartial monitoring. The Government of Pakistan calls upon the Government of India to respect its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and allow the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan to fulfil its mandate.

India's announced suspension of military operations against the Kashmiri freedom fighters will be meaningful only if it is combined with a purposeful dialogue for peaceful settlement of Jammu and Kashmir.

For credibility of its desire for peaceful settlement, the Government of India should announce a permanent end to policy of repression and violence, reduction of Indian forces in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir, release all detainees and respect the fundamental rights of the Kashmiri people.

Pakistan reaffirms its commitment to respect and support the Kashmiris' inherent right to self-determination which was, besides, pledged to them by Pakistan and India and is enshrined in the resolutions of the Security Council.

Pakistan is prepared to enter into a meaningful dialogue with India to address the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, correctly described by the Security Council as a root cause of tension between the two countries, as well as other disputes, in conformity with Security Council resolutions, principles of justice, international law and the past agreements between the two countries.

In order to enable the representatives of the Kashmiri people to participate in the dialogue on Jammu and Kashmir, the Government of Pakistan extends an invitation to the Executive Committee of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, the leader of the Kashmiri freedom struggle, for consultations to prepare the ground for a tripartite process of negotiation for a peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the will of the people of the state. The Government of Pakistan calls upon the Government of India to allow the leadership of All Parties Hurriyat Conference to visit Pakistan for consultations during the month of Ramadan.

To the same end, the Government of Pakistan calls upon the Government of India to invite the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, during the current month of Ramadan, to prepare for the commencement of tripartite negotiations between Pakistan, India and the Conference immediately after Ramadan.